

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 00766 100300Z

64

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAJ-01 SAM-01 NSCE-00 DRC-01 /127 W

----- 100356

P R 100255Z MAY 74

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1766

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJECT: CHOU EN-LAI ILLNESS

1. WE HAVE NOT SEEN WIRE SERVICE STORIES ON CHOU EN-LAI'S FAILURE TO APPEAR AT BANQUET GIVEN MAY 9 BY SENEGAL'S PRESIDENT SENGHOR, SO AT RISK OF DUPLICATION THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED THUS FAR FROM THOSE PRESENT. MFA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS CAME TO BANQUET ARMED WITH ALMOST IDENTICAL STORIES. CHOU WAS DESCRIBED BY EACH AS "FEELING NOT WELL", A CONDITION WHICH WAS ASCRIBED TO HIS "OLD AGE". WHEN REUTERS CORRESPONDENT PRESSED INFORMATION DEPARTMENT MAN AT HIS TABLE HE WAS TOLD THAT CHOU IS NOT CONFINED TO BED NOR IS HE IN THE HOSPITAL. HE WAS DESCRIBED AS NOT SERIOUSLY ILL. INTERNATIONAL LIAISON DIVISION CHIEF MA YU-CHEN WAS NOT PRESENT FOR EITHER BANQUET.

2. CHINESE LEARNED OF CHOU'S ABSENCE FROM BANQUET WHEN RADIO PEKING MORNING OF MAY 10 REPORTED EVENT WITH LI HSIEN-NIEN HEADING LIST OF CHINESE LEADERS
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PRESENT. SAME NEWS BROADCAST DID, HOWEVER, REPORT CHOU

AND LI'S MEETING WITH SENGHOR AFTERNOON OF MAY 9.

3. COMMENT: BHUTTO ARRIVES MAY 11 WHICH SHOULD BE
ANOTHER REQUIRED APPEARANCE FOR CHOU.
BRUCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 10 MAY 1974
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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30 JUN 2005

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